Demarest Home & School Association

**Meeting Minutes**
**7:00 pm, Monday, November 2, 2026**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Co-Presidents Report:**

- **a.** Virtual Backpack: Due to Ms. Getic by Tuesday afternoon before to be entered in the Thursday backpack
- **b.** Social Media, Translation, & Web Page needs: please allow enough time before flyers/ cheddar up posts/social media posts be sent out to allow the necessary committee chairs to process & approve. Flyers should go to co-presidents first for approval, then translation. Anything with Cheddar up should go to Matthew with enough time for him to get it set to go live.
- **c.** Please make flyers more basic so that less ink can be used. In general, be mindful of the amount of ink being used.
- **d.** Committee Support & Translation for 26-27 school year
  - **i.** Holiday Shop- needs a lot of help this year. Please reach out to co-presidents. If you can help, it is a bit of a heavy lift so if you have time, it would be appreciated.
  - **ii.** Translation Support- only 1 member of this committee currently and she is a 6th grade parent. Looking for someone to join and help.
  - **iii.** Spirit Wear- only 1-2 people are on this committee now. This is spirit wear shops, club shirts, etc. Mainly 6th grade parents have been handling this so would be good to add some new members now.
- **e.** Recess Enrichment Program. Looking like it will get off the ground sooner than later to give alternative activities at recess. Looking for parents to help support these programs that a 4th grade parent will be spearheading. Recess runs from 11:25am - 1:05pm. Reach out to co-presidents if interested.
- **f.** Email Issues. Having trouble with our server and emails are being returned and not received. Looking at moving to Google Workspace platform for email that has larger storage space. We are in very early stages, hoping to have a clearer picture in December.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

a. Account Balances:
   i. Main Checking $76,741.32
   ii. LGCCC Checking $2,641.44
   iii. Savings Balance $25,617.78
   iv. Playground Acct. $43,289.89

V. **Secretary's Report**

a. Reminder to complete all building use forms for any events and send it to me. Forms are with Mrs. Getic or on our website. Anything within 2 weeks needs to be done by Mrs. Getic instead of me.

**VI. Board of Education Representative's Report- Mrs. Greene**

a. Congratulations to BHS Football coach on his retirement and celebrate his career
b. Congratulate BHS fall sports teams
c. Thank you BPD for their partnership on the walk to school program and during Halloween celebrations
d. Watsessing and BMS Hispanic heritage
e. NHS at BHS and National Junior HS at BMS

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f. BHS hosted on site visits from Colleges and Universities including local HBCUs
g. Demarest trunk or treat was great. Hallway was so scary!
h. BHS Marching Band has earned high honors- congratulations!
i. Harlem Wizards is coming 12.5
j. Next BOE meetings- 11.17 & 12.15

**VII. Principal's Report- Mr. Sullivan**

a. Thank you for the fall social and haunted hallway. To class parents for the parties and Conor Farrow as grand marshall of the parade.
b. Beyond the Boogie dance program- was so impressive with the new dance moves
c. Indigenous Peoples Month- will be celebrating with a fact a day during announcements
d. School closed for election day 11.3 and 11.5-6 for teacher enrichment
e. 3pm close for aftercare on 11.25
f. Picture retakes 11.11
g. Stop Bullying Assembly 11.12
h. Kids tricky Tray 11.13
i. Conferences will be the w/o 11.16. Nights in 11.20 & 11.23
j. Thank you to the community for helping to support a family who experienced a house fire

**VIII. Teacher's Report – Mrs. LaBattaglia**

a. Ms. Klein & K-Kids- Socktober was a huge success. Thanksgiving food drive will be done- food will be assigned by grade level and donated ahead of the holiday
b. Fall social was incredible!
c. Chromebook insurance is officially closed as of 10.30
d. In the library beginning 4th & 5th grade program about veterans. Meet the author with Matt Tobaris. Phil McGovern reached out about a holiday letters to veterans program.
e. NA Heritage month- lot of read alouds and author visits.
f. Mrs. Labataglia is available for any system help needed

**IX. Committee Chairperson's Reports**

a. Class Parents
    i. Thanks to all of the class parents that helped make the Halloween Parties a huge success!!! Reimbursement forms are due to the treasurers within the next 2 weeks, if seeking reimbursement for the party supplies.
    ii. Reminder that all foods need to come from the approved list sent and send labels by the required deadline to Mrs. Rosant so that she can review and approve in time for the party.
    iii. Next party is the holiday party on 12/23. Emails will be sent out at the end of November for you to connect with the other parents in the grade to collaborate. You will also receive approved foods and allergy lists.
    iv. We are still looking for class parent for Tierney's Holiday Party- please reach out to the class parents if you'd like to volunteer!
b. Fundraising
    i. Food Truck festival 5.15.26- more updates to come next month
    ii. Dad/Daughter (name TBC) dance being planned for Friday 2.12. More information to come next month.
    iii. Charleston Wrapping Paper Fundraiser: the online store is officially open & will be open until 11/11. Current sales are $880! All purchases will be shipped directly

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to you from the company. Share the QR code & link with family and friends - all deliveries to be expected before Thanksgiving in time for the holiday season!

c. Programs
    i. November assembly- 11.12 Anti-Bullying. Super interactive. Help explain what bullying is and what it can cause
    ii. Confirming dates/assemblies for December 16-18. Open to suggestions, wintery or holiday focused
    iii. Tentatively January 15- animals, snakes, etc.
d. Basketball
    i. 4th – 6th & 2nd – 3rd
        1. 4th and 6th grade boys will both have 2 teams
        2. 4th grade girls had only 2 sign ups so going to 5th grade
        3. Registration will be open through first Friday in December
        4. 2nd & 3rd grade clinic closes December 1st
    ii. For volunteering parents- there will be a signup genius for your coverage hours. You will get a reminder. Help facilitate the flow of traffic, move teams to their spaces, etc. Watching out for any issues going on- vandalism occurred at Fairview so want to just keep eyes open and report. More information will be provided in December
    iii. Harlem Wizards are coming on 12.5. All 8 Bloomfield HSAs run together. All proceeds are divided evenly. 3 staff members from each school play the Wizards. There is an assembly with the Wizards coming to Demarest and then ticket sales kick off.
e. Kids Tricky Tray
    i. 95 Total Donations- 85 prizes, 10 consolation prizes. Includes 23 experiences and GCs from local business.
    **ii.** Need volunteers for set up (4pm) and breakdown after the event.
    iii. We will have face painting by Alisha (such a talent!) for $2 per child
**f.** Coat Drive
    i. We are collecting coats that are in clean, good condition through 11/16. During kids' tricky tray and parent teacher conferences, coats will be stationed in the gym for children/families to shop for a new-to-them coat. Balance will be donated by Ms. Klein and the K Kids.
    ii. Please wash before dropping off your donation. If not, Natalie will have to wash them herself.
    iii. Please feel free to come by and shop or lend a hand to Natalie with set up and hang out. Coat Drive times and locations are:
        1. 11.19- 6-8pm in the cafeteria
        2. 11.20- 2-4 in the lobby
        3. 11.23- 6-8pm in the cafeteria
    iv. Related- please check the lost and found for any coats as there are A LOT of clothing items there
g. Kids Paint Night
    i. Event is 12/4 from 6-8 pm. Flyers will go home second week of November. $25 per child which will include pre-drawn canvas to paint at event. We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up and snack sales. We are also looking for volunteers to host multi-cultural winter holiday tables. Historically these have taught about Hannukah and Kwanza and have included an explanation of the holiday, a craft or game. A visit from Mr. Claus is confirmed! Gentle reminder that

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this, and all HSA events, are not drop off. All children must be chaperoned by a parent or responsible adult.
ii. Can accommodate about 80 children.
iii. Please sign up sooner than later as these are hand drawn canvases and time is needed to do them
iv. We will have face painting by Alisha (such a talent!) for $2 per child
v. Donations will also be being collected of diapers and feminine products to be donated to Toni's Kitchen as these are items in high demand.

h. Fall Social
   i. Thanking everyone who volunteered for making it such a great event.
   ii. Ms. Icavone's Kindergarten class won the ice pop party.
   iii. Trunk winner- Harry Potter Trunk! Please give your name so you can claim your prize!

i. Spirit Wear
   i. Spirit wear items have been delivered last week. We are tallying orders that have issues. They can either reach out to spirit wear committee or Liz. We are currently working with the rep from the company. Thank you!!

j. Mini Fundraising
   i. Soar and Bounce November 5 & 6 from 10am-8pm - they will give us 20% for any paying child.
   ii. open and ongoing Bundt cake that closes Dec 7. Over $700 of orders already. Pick up will be 12.21

k. Pumpkin Patch
   i. Huge success! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with setup & throughout the day! Thanks to Property Services Landscaping for the pumpkins. Cost for the pumpkins: $750 which is incredible for 510 pumpkins. These were the best pumpkins yet.
   ii. Thank you to Ann Marie Collins for taking class pictures of each class in the patch for the teachers to share!

l. Community Service
   i. Still collecting gently used spirit wear through 11.13
   ii. Halloween costume collection will be coming again- stay tuned for dates
   iii. November- Thankful goodie bags for EMTs. Working on this with Ms. Klein
   iv. If you need any assistance, we have funds that we can share with you for anything you may need. Reach out to Ms. Beasley and she will help get these funds to you anonymously.
   v. For family who experienced the house fire- perhaps a google sheet can be made to help ensure items being donated are needed and that there are not overlaps. Perhaps Community Service Committee can work with Ms. Beasley to arrange this.

m. Sixth Grade
   i. Hoodies were distributed today
   ii. The 6th grade committee encourages all 6th grade families to join the WhatsApp to stay up to date on all things 6th grade.
   iii. Congratulations to our 6th grade families for surpassing the fundraising goal and thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts!
      1. Total Fundraising to date: $4,841.16
      2. Clothing Drive: $530
      3. Car Wash & Bengal Brews: $1,750
      4. Hoodie Sales: $606

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**iv.** Next Fundraiser:
**1.** 6th grade 50/50 Raffle-Tentatively November 2026-January 2027
**v.** Potential additional fundraising Activities
1. Bengal Brews (Hot coffee)
2. Spring Clothing Drive — April 2027
3. Spring Bengal Brews Refresher Sale — May 2027

n. Pep Squad
i. Fall Social was a success. Halloween parade went well also. We have a (1 wk) short break for practices before we start back up on 11/12 ahead of the basketball rally in January. We also collected t-shirt sizes and will be working on getting those ordered and handed out to the kids at a practice next month. Uniform jackets will also be handed out next month.

**X. Old Business**
**XI. New Business**
**XII. Announcements**
a. Make Up / Retake Day for School Photos is 11.11.26
b. December 7th meeting will be remote. A zoom link will be sent out via email and social media.
**XIII. Adjournment**

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## FOLLOW US!

STAY UPDATED ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE LATEST DEMAREST SCHOOL NEWS

**FACEBOOK** **WEBSITE** **INSTAGRAM**

**SIGN UP GENIUS QR Code**

***For All Demarest Volunteering Opportunities***